COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT: On-Duty, Non-Hit Shooting

IAB FILE NUMBERS: SH 2483294

DATE / TIME: May 12, 2019 / 1817 Hours

LOCATION: [redacted] E. Tucker Street, Compton

SYNPOSIS

On May 12, 2019, the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), Force Shooting Response Team, comprised of Sergeants Henry Ortega, [redacted] and Lieutenant David Grall, responded to the command post, located at 2100 N. Long Beach Boulevard, Compton regarding an on-duty, non-hit, shooting involving Compton Station personnel. The incident concluded with the arrest of Mario Alberto Morales Blas.

IAB investigators confirmed that the on-duty watch commander, Lieutenant Oscar Veloz #[redacted], took steps to ensure the involved and witness personnel did not discuss the incident amongst each other, or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators. In addition, Lieutenant Veloz confirmed the involved personnel were in the presence of a supervisor prior to any interviews. Detective [redacted] from Operation Safe Streets Bureau (OSS), was assigned as the lead investigator for the criminal investigation. For further information refer to the crime and supplemental reports listed under URN 019-07068-2825-055 **[Exhibit A]**.

SUMMARY

On May 12, 2019, at approximately 1817 hours, unit 282D, Deputies Edgar Cuevas and Jorge Calderon, were patrolling west on the 1400 block of E. Ezmirlian Street in Compton **[Exhibit B, photo 1]**. The deputies saw a male Hispanic subject (Suspect Morales Blas) walking eastbound on the north side of the street **[Exhibit B, photos 2-5]**. When Suspect Morales Blas saw the patrol car, he made eye contact with them and placed his right hand by his front waistband. Suspect Morales Blas, as reported by Deputies Cuevas and Calderon, appeared to be gripping the handle of a handgun over his shirt.

> **IAB Note:** Deputy Cuevas recognized the suspect from previous law enforcement contacts as a Compton Varrio 70s gang member.

Deputy Cuevas quickly stopped the patrol car, and both he and Deputy Calderon stepped out to investigate. Deputy Calderon, who was closest to the suspect, told Suspect Morales Blas to "stop," (pursuant to a weapons investigation). Suspect Morales Blas then ran east past the deputies, toward Bullis Road **[Exhibit B, photos 6, 7]**.

Deputy Calderon immediately initiated a foot pursuit, while Deputy Cuevas re-entered the patrol car and followed his partner **[Exhibit C, Surveillance Video, Camera 6, 18h: 17m: 44s]**. Once Suspect Morales Blas reached Bullis road, he ran north. Deputy Calderon was approximately 20 feet behind. Deputy Cuevas negotiated the patrol car into the intersection of Ezmirlian Street and Bullis Road. He activated his handheld radio and requested emergency radio clearance. Unaware his radio was on "direct," Deputy Cuevas did not receive a response from the Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC).

IAB Note: "Direct" is a mode on the radio, which enables short-range, direct communication between two or more personnel. SCC cannot detect "direct-mode" radio traffic from Compton Station's jurisdiction.

The foot pursuit continued east on Tucker Street from Bullis Road. Deputy Calderon remained between 15 to 20 feet behind the suspect. Meanwhile, Deputy Cuevas caught up to, and paced himself alongside Deputy Calderon in the patrol car. Deputy Cuevas again initiated emergency radio traffic using his handheld radio. He transmitted that he and Deputy Calderon were "following a 417 suspect." He requested an airship, field units, and gave an updated location. Still on "direct," his radio traffic failed once again to reach SCC.

IAB Note: "417" is a radio code, which means: person with a gun.

Deputy Calderon noticed SCC was not responding to his partner's radio traffic. He requested the "patch," and SCC immediately acknowledged. Deputy Calderon advised they were in foot pursuit of a "417 suspect." SCC then asked for their location, but as the events unfolded, neither Deputies Calderon nor Cuevas would respond for over a minute.

IAB Note: The "patch" (duplex dispatch) is a term often used to broadcast emergency radio traffic, in lieu of using the radio code, "10-33."

At about that time, Suspect Morales Blas ran eastbound toward a vacant, single-family house, located at [redacted]E. Tucker Street **[Exhibit B, photos 8, 9]**. He sprinted across the front yard, and ran alongside the east side of the house. At that moment Deputy Calderon lost sight of him; however, Deputy Cuevas accelerated in the patrol car and stopped in the street adjacent to the house. He stepped out and saw Suspect Morales Blas approaching a wooden fence, which separated the front yard from the backyard of

the property **[Exhibit B, photos 10, 11]**. The suspect then ducked through a small passageway in the fence, holding a small handgun **[Exhibit B, photo 12]**.

Deputy Cuevas met Deputy Calderon in the front yard, and advised him of his observations. The deputies decided to approach the wooden fence in the hope of observing the suspect's last seen direction, for the purposes of establishing an accurate containment.

With weapons drawn, Deputies Cuevas and Calderon advanced side-by-side, staying to the left (east) of the passageway. Within five feet of the fence line, they heard movement in the backyard. Deputy Cuevas slowly sidestepped toward the opening in the fence to investigate. Moving to his right, Deputy Cuevas saw Suspect Morales Blas enter his view on the opposite side of the fence, approximately seven feet away. Next to the passageway, Suspect Morales Blas was rising from a crouched position, holding a handgun in his right hand. He was facing Deputy Cuevas, pointing the weapon in his direction.

Fearing he would be shot, Deputy Cuevas fired three rounds in rapid succession toward Suspect Morales Blas. The rounds missed, and Suspect Morales Blas fled further into the backyard without firing his weapon. Deputies Cuevas and Calderon immediately egressed from the line-of-fire and regrouped in the front yard. Deputy Cuevas radioed emergency traffic, stating unit 282D had just been involved in a "998." It was then Deputy Cuevas' realized his radio was on "direct."

IAB Note: "998" is a radio code, which means: deputy involved in a shooting.

IAB Note: "Direct" mode is deployable by switching a toggle at the top of the handheld radio **[Exhibit B, photos 13. 14]**.

Deputy Cuevas switched his radio off "direct," and began coordinating units to the location **[Exhibit C, Radio Traffic, Dispatch 9]**. In the meantime, he took a position on the northeast side of the property, and Deputy Calderon took a position on the northwest side. Maintaining visual contact of each other, they held their positions until additional units arrived.

Unit 283D, Deputy Hernandez, was the first assisting unit on-scene and immediately took over radio communications. At approximately the same time, Suspect Morales Blas appeared in the driveway, on the west side of the property **[Exhibit B, photos 15, 16]**. Deputy Calderon detained him at gunpoint, while Deputy Cuevas moved to Deputy Calderon's position to assist. Deputy Calderon ordered Suspect Morales Blas to the ground, as additional deputies began to arrive. Suspect Morales Blas complied, and lay face down in the driveway.

As additional units arrived, Deputy Cuevas assembled an arrest team. The team consisted of Deputies Cuevas; Calderon; Guillermo Anaya, unit 283B; and James

Hubbard, unit 287D. Deputy Calderon was designated to handcuff the suspect, while Deputy Hernandez manned the radio from the driveway. The arrest team approached Suspect Morales Blas and placed him in handcuffs without incident. He was transported to Compton Station, and later booked at Century Regional Detention Facility for Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Peace Officer, 245(d)(1) PC.

A loaded .38 caliber, Smith & Wesson handgun was located on the ground, near the site where the shooting occurred **[Exhibit B, photos 17, 18]**. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Laboratory personnel arrived and processed the scene. Forensic Specialist, Nakia Berry, #[redacted] recovered three (3), 9mm shell casings, associated to Deputy Cuevas' firearm **[Exhibit B, photo 19]**.

FOOT PURSUIT DISTANCE

The foot pursuit covered the following distances:

- [redacted] feet, starting from the 1400 block of Ezmirlian Street to Bullis Road.
- [redacted] feet from N. Bullis Road to E. Tucker Street.
- [redacted] feet from E. Tucker Street to the [redacted] E. Tucker Street.
- Total Distance = [redacted] feet.

A foot pursuit evaluation was submitted by Compton Station. Refer to the Foot Pursuit Evaluation form submitted under the **Miscellaneous Documents** section of this casebook.

On June 3, 2019, IAB investigators retraced the last 40 to 50 feet of the foot pursuit, up to the terminus. Refer to the video footage under **[Exhibit C, IAB video]**.

ROUND COUNT

Forensic Identification Specialist Nakia Berry conducted a round count of Deputy Cuevas' duty firearm **[Exhibit C, Round Count**]. Deputy Cuevas rendered his firearm safe in the presence of IAB investigators. His weapon contained one (1) FC 9mm Luger round in the chamber, and twelve (12) 9mm FC Luger rounds in the fifteen round capacity magazine. Deputy Cuevas' weapon and magazine were transported to the Los Angeles County Scientific Services Bureau, Firearms Section by Forensic Identification Specialist Berry.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL/WORK HISTORY:

EDGAR CUEVAS

Deputy Sheriff, Employee #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Date of Employment: 01/07/2008
Date assigned to CPT: 10/04/2015
Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incident(s): [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incident(s): [redacted]

EQUIPMENT WORN ON PERSON

On May 12, 2019, Deputy Cuevas was wearing his Class "A" uniform with a protective vest and Sam Browne duty belt. The equipment on his belt included his Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, his Departmentally authorized 9mm Sig Sauer, duty weapon with a surefire light attachment, two sets of handcuffs, expandable baton, handheld radio, tourniquet, and double magazine holder.

SUSPECT INFORMATION

MORALES BLAS, MARIO MH/28, DOB 07/30/90, 506, 200 LBS., Booking #5627060 CII: [redacted], MAIN: [redacted] FBI: [redacted]

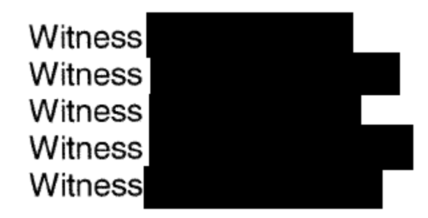
A check of the Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) [redacted]. Refer to the booking package and CCHRS report in the **Miscellaneous Documents** section of this casebook.

WITNESSES

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Deputy Jorge Calderon
Deputy Christopher Hernandez
Deputy Guillermo Anaya
Deputy Latosha Walker
Deputy James Hubbard
Sergeant Natasha Butler
Sergeant Eric Johnson
Deputy Jaime Juarez

NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES


Witness [redacted]
Witness [redacted]
Witness [redacted]
Witness [redacted]
Witness [redacted]

INJURIES:

None

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

All physical evidence was located and collected by Forensic Specialist Nakia Berry on May 13, 2019. Crime Lab personnel also took 408 photographs and submitted them to IAB **[Exhibit C, Crime Lab Photos]**.

INVESTIGATORS' OBSERVATIONS

The location was a vacant, single-family residence with a detached garage. Heavy foliage and weed growth was present in the backyard, and in the area of the shooting. The entryways and windows of the home were boarded. IAB investigators photographed the scene **[Exhibit C, IAB photos]** during daylight hours, on June 19, 2019.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL

Deputy Cuevas used a Sig Sauer, Model 226, SN: [redacted] 9mm, with a 15 round magazine capacity; plus one round in the chamber. Deputy Cuevas' firearm was not submitted for latent prints, blood evidence or DNA testing. Three expended 9mm round casings were recovered at the shooting scene.

Deputy Cuevas successfully completed on-duty Semi-Automatic Firearms Training on [redacted] for the 9mm, Sig Sauer, Model 226, handgun **[Exhibit E]**. His last range qualification was on [redacted] **[Exhibit F]**.

WEAPONS USED BY THE SUSPECT

Smith & Wesson 38 SPL Revolver, blue steel, SN: [redacted] with six (6) live .38 caliber rounds. The weapon was tested for functionality and DNA. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable, and the presence of Suspect Morales Blas' DNA was indicated on the trigger, guard, hammer and grips **[Exhibit G]**.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

None.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CHARGES

Investigator's Name: Compton OSS Detective, [redacted]
Court: Compton
Charges Filed: 69 PC
DA Case Number: TA148938

Detective [redacted] submitted a criminal case regarding Suspect Morales Blas for filing consideration with the District Attorney's Office. On May 14, 2019, the District Attorney's Office filed two counts of Assault with a Firearm upon a Peace Officer, 245(d)(1) PC and one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, 29800(a)(1) PC. At the time of this report, Suspect Morales Blas remained incarcerated and the case was yet to be adjudicated. Refer to Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) in the **Miscellaneous Documents** section of this casebook.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Daylight hours. Dry weather conditions.

SURVEILLANCE VIDEO

The following video surveillance footage was captured from a strip mall located at [redacted] Compton. Two cameras captured portions of the foot pursuit. **Camera 6**: Intersection of Bullis Road and Ezmirlian Street. **Camera 5**: Intersection of Bullis Road and Tucker Street **[Exhibit C, file: Surveillance Video]**.

CAM #	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Cam 6	18:17:17	Unit 282D drives west on Ezmirlian Street from Bullis Road
Cam 6	18:17:36	Suspect runs east on Ezmirlian Street to north on Bullis Road
Cam 6	18:17:44	282D, Deputy Cuevas drives his patrol car north on Bullis Road
Cam 6	18:18:41	Unknown unit drives south on Bullis Road from Ezmirlian
Cam 6	18:20:38	Multiple units begin driving N/B Bullis Road toward Tucker Street
Cam 6	18:22:22	Unit 285S and 280S drive north on Bullis Road
Cam 5	18:17:51	282D drives east on Tucker Street from Bullis Road
Cam 5	18:22:25	Unit 285S and 280S drive east on Tucker Street from Bullis Road

RADIO TRAFFIC – DISPATCH 9

18:16:43- 282D - Deputy Calderon: *Give me the patch.*

18:17:08- 282D - Deputy Calderon: *282D, 417 suspect running.*

18:17:54- 283D - Deputy Hernandez: *What's the last direction? What's the last seen direction?*

18:18:11- 282D - Deputy Cuevas: *Let's starting getting a unit on ah Bullis, Ez...* Deputy Calderon (stepping over Deputy Cuevas): [redacted] *Tucker,* [redacted] *Tucker, last seen running to the rear.*

18:18:37- 282D - Deputy Cuevas: *Let's start getting units on Bullis, Bullis and Queensdale, Bullis and Tucker, Bullis and Ezmirlian and let's do the same all the way to Bradfield.*

18:19:32- 283D - Deputy Hernandez: *Hey SCC, detaining at gunpoint,* [redacted] *Tucker, in the backyard; so far he's uncoop.*

18:19:57- 283D- Deputy Hernandez: *Hey SCC, suspect is proned out, waiting additional commands.*

18:20:39- 283D- Deputy Hernandez: *282D is code 4, they are code 4...code 4, suspect is proned out, making verbal commands still.*

18:20:51- 283D - Deputy Hernandez: *Have Fire stage off of Bullis and Tucker.*

18:21:10- 283D - Deputy Hernandez: *SCC, making an approach on the suspect.*

18:21:23- 282D - Deputy Cuevas: *Hey ah, all deputies are accounted for, 282D.*

18:21:51- 283D- Deputy Hernandez: *Hey SCC confirm you have Fire staging off of Bullis and Tucker?*

18:21:59- 283D - Deputy Hernandez: *Copy, suspect is detained right now.*

18:22:08- 283D - Deputy Hernandez: *Yeah, per the handling unit, 282D, 998.*

18:22:13- 282D - Deputy Cuevas: *282D, that's affirm, ma'am, 998, code 4, you can drop the patch and you can switch over to A-Tac 4 please.*

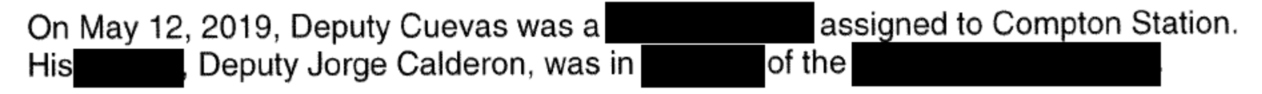
18:23 Duplex dispatch dropped. For a copy of the radio traffic, refer to **[Exhibit C, file: Radio Traffic; Dispatch 9]**.

INTERVIEWS

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed the below personnel and witnesses. The following is a summary of their interviews. For more information and precise wording, see attached verbatim interview transcripts.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS

DEPUTY EDGAR CUEVAS



On May 12, 2019, Deputy Cuevas was a [redacted] assigned to Compton Station. His [redacted], Deputy Jorge Calderon, was in [redacted] of the [redacted]

On the indicated date, Deputies Cuevas and Calderon were assigned as unit 282D on PM shift. Deputy Cuevas was the driver and Deputy Calderon was the passenger. At approximately 1817 hours, they were driving west on Ezmirlian Street from Bullis Road, when they noticed Suspect Morales Blas approximately 30 to 40 feet ahead of them. Initially, Suspect Morales Blas was facing away from the deputies, but turned and began walking east. He saw the deputies approaching and his mouth and his eyes opened wide. At the same time, Suspect Morales Blas reached for his waistband with his right hand, appearing to grab what Deputy Cuevas believed was the handle of handgun underneath his t-shirt.

Deputy Cuevas stopped their patrol car and both he and Deputy Calderon stepped out to make contact. A moment later, Suspect Morales Blas ran east toward Bullis Road. Deputy Calderon gave chase, while Deputy Cuevas re-entered the patrol car and placed the vehicle into reverse. He drove in reverse, as his partner, Deputy Calderon, chased Suspect Morales Blas north on Bullis Road to Tucker Street. Once Deputy Cuevas reached the intersection of Ezmirlian Street and Bullis Road, he shifted into drive, and transmitted emergent radio traffic stating, "10-33, give me the patch." SCC did not respond. Deputy Cuevas drove north on Bullis Road to east on Tucker Street. There, he caught up to Deputy Calderon and drove alongside of him. Deputy Cuevas again put out emergency radio traffic, requesting additional units and an airship to their location. He provided their location and gave the reason for the foot pursuit. SCC did not respond.

Deputy Cuevas did not realize he was on "direct." His radio traffic failed to reach SCC. Yet he was under the impression the radio traffic successfully transmitted over the main frequency, in that he could hear his own voice on Deputy Calderon's radio.

Suspect Morales Blas continued running east on the south sidewalk of Tucker Street. He looked back toward the deputies with his hands in front of his body. Deputy Cuevas chose not to close the distance, for fear Suspect Morales Blas may produce a gun and shoot him.

Suspect Morales Blas ran toward a house located at [redacted] E. Tucker Street. Deputy Cuevas drove ahead of Deputy Calderon and stopped his patrol car adjacent to the property. He stepped out of the car, as Suspect Morales Blas ran to the east side of the property. The suspect approached a wooden fence that separated the front yard from the backyard. He looked back at Deputy Cuevas then entered the backyard through a narrow passageway, holding a small black gun.

Deputy Cuevas then met Deputy Calderon in the front yard. Together, they approached the wooden fence in an effort to establish the suspect's last seen direction. The deputies kept to the left of the passage, away from the line-of-fire. Once they were within five feet of the fence-line, Deputy Cuevas heard movement that he described as "rummaging" on the other side of the fence.

In order to investigate, Deputy Cuevas slowly sidestepped toward the opening with his pistol drawn. As he moved to his right, increasing his view of the backyard, Deputy Cuevas spotted Suspect Morales Blas rising from a crouched position, approximately five to ten feet away. He had a handgun in his right hand and was pointing it at Deputy Cuevas. Scared and fearing he would be killed, Deputy Cuevas fired "three to four" rounds toward Suspect Morales Blas' position, in a slightly downward trajectory. **Refer to Deputy Cuevas' transcribed IAB interview pages 26, 27.** Deputy Cuevas described his backdrop as being the backyard of the location.

IAB Note: OSS detectives and Compton Station personnel conducted a safety check, ensuring no bystanders or property were struck by Deputy Cuevas' rounds during the incident. Neither personnel from OSS nor the Crime Lab determined the exact point of impact of the rounds. The backyard, where the shooting occurred, had dense undergrowth.

Deputies Cuevas and Calderon then backed up to the front of the house. Deputy Cuevas radioed "998" and kept an eye on the east side of the property. It was then he realized his radio was on "direct." Deputy Cuevas switched off of "direct" and began coordinating units to the location.

Deputy Cuevas remained in front of the house watching the east side. Deputy Calderon moved to the west side and watched the driveway. As units were arriving, Deputy Calderon saw Suspect Morales Blas in the driveway and detained him. Deputy Cuevas joined Deputy Calderon on the west side of the house, and formulated a plan to take the suspect into custody. Deputy Cuevas assigned deputies to specific roles, and the team approached Suspect Morales Blas who was prone out in the driveway. He was handcuffed and taken into custody without incident.

Foot Pursuit

Deputy Cuevas indicated that he had preplanned for various foot pursuit situations with Deputy Calderon. According to Deputy Cuevas, Deputy Calderon knew he (Deputy Cuevas) may opt to use the patrol car during the foot pursuit. Deputy Calderon also knew to terminate a foot pursuit if they were to become separated. **Refer to Deputy Cuevas IAB transcribed interview, pages 27, 28.**

Radio

IAB investigators asked specific questions pertaining Deputy Cuevas' radio. In response, he said he could not recall using "direct" earlier in the shift. Generally, he used "direct" during the shift to communicate informally with other units. Additionally, Compton Station switched to a new handheld radio model approximately two to three months prior to the incident. The new toggle for "direct" was stiffer on the new model.

IAB investigators confirmed that Compton Station personnel received new Motorola AXP 8000 radios in late December of 2018.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

DEPUTY JORGE CALDERON

On May 12, 2019, Deputy Calderon was in [redacted] of the [redacted] at Compton Station. His field [redacted] was Deputy Edgar Cuevas. On the day of the incident, they partnered as unit 282D, PM shift.

> **IAB Note:** Deputy Calderon successfully completed the training program in [redacted]

Deputy Calderon said he and Deputy Cuevas were driving west on Ezmirlian Street. They saw Suspect Morales Blas on the north side of the street. Almost immediately, Suspect Morales Blas saw the deputies approaching and appeared startled. His eyes opened wide, and he moved his right hand to his front waistband. Under his right hand appeared to be the shape of a handgun forming beneath his shirt. Deputy Cuevas stopped the patrol car, and Deputy Calderon stepped out. From a distance of approximately 15 feet, pursuant to a firearm investigation, Deputy Calderon told the suspect, "Stop, come over here, talk to me." At that point, Suspect Morales Blas ran east on Ezmirlian Street toward Bullis Road.

Having planned for such a scenario with Deputy Cuevas, Deputy Calderon pursued Suspect Morales Blas on foot, while Deputy Cuevas followed in the patrol car. Deputy Calderon maintained a distance between 15 and 20 feet, never intending on closing the distance. Deputy Cuevas drove close behind, as Deputy Calderon could hear the

engine of the patrol car. Deputy Calderon knew from preplanning that Deputy Cuevas would handle the radio, so he could focus on the suspect.

Suspect Morales Blas reached Bullis Road and ran north. The whole time, his right hand was by his front waistband. Suspect Morales Blas continued east on Tucker Street. He periodically looked back, as if to acquire Deputy Calderon's position. Deputy Cuevas drove alongside Deputy Calderon on Tucker Street. Deputy Calderon, over his own handheld radio, could hear Deputy Cuevas transmit, "10-33" multiple times. Deputy Cuevas also advised SCC they were in foot pursuit of a 417 suspect. SCC did not acknowledge. Concerned his partner's radio was ineffective, Deputy Calderon activated his own radio and stated, "10-33 give me the patch." SCC replied, and Deputy Calderon advised they were in foot pursuit.

Suspect Morales Blas ran to a house, located at [redacted]E. Tucker Street. He ran along the east side of the property where Deputy Calderon lost sight of him. Deputy Cuevas, however, accelerated past Deputy Calderon and stopped adjacent to the property. Deputy Cuevas had "eyes on the suspect." Deputies Cuevas stepped out of the car, and met Deputy Calderon in the front yard. There, he advised Deputy Calderon that Suspect Morales Blas went through the opening in the fence.

Deputies Calderon and Cuevas approached the fence together. As they neared, Deputy Calderon heard a noise on the opposite side of the fence. Moments later, Deputy Calderon heard Deputy Cuevas say, "Oh," and then Deputy Cuevas fired three rounds from his duty weapon. Deputy Cuevas advised Deputy Calderon that the suspect had a gun and was running.

Deputies Calderon and Deputy Cuevas backed away and regrouped in the front yard. Deputy Calderon could hear SCC asking for their location. Deputy Calderon replied, "[redacted]E. Tucker," over his radio. Deputy Calderon then took a position on the northwest side of the house, while Deputy Cuevas remained on the northeast side of the house to establish a containment.

Seconds later, Deputy Calderon noticed Suspect Morales Blas at the end of the driveway by the garage. Deputy Calderon ordered him to put his hands up, and get on the ground. Suspect Morales Blas complied. Once an adequate number of personnel arrived, an arrest team was formed. The arrest team made a tactical approach and Deputy Calderon handcuffed the suspect without incident. Deputy Calderon verbally reported his witnessing of the incident to Sergeant Eric Johnson, unit 285S.

DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER HERNANDEZ

Deputy Hernandez said he was working unit 283D when he heard an unknown deputy ask for emergency radio clearance on the local tactical frequency (L-Tac) "direct." Deputy Hernandez advised the deputy he was "on direct." Deputy Hernandez then

recognized the voice of Deputy Cuevas asking for the "patch" over Dispatch 9. His radio transmission was still on "direct."

Over the following seconds, Deputy Hernandez was able to gather that unit 282D was at [redacted] E. Tucker Street. Deputy Hernandez responded to a containment spot at Bradfield Avenue and Tucker Street, east of the location. Seconds later, Deputy Hernandez heard unit 282D transmit they had just been involved in a "998," over "direct." Deputy Hernandez left his containment position and drove to the location. Once there, he joined Deputy Calderon and Deputy Cuevas on the west side of the house. Suspect Morales Blas was in the driveway, adhering to Deputy Calderon's commands.

Deputy Hernandez told Deputies Cuevas he would take control of radio communications. He positioned himself at the end of the driveway by the street. Deputy Hernandez provided updated information over the radio and requested the fire department to stage nearby. Once an adequate amount of personnel arrived, the suspect was arrested.

DEPUTY GUILLERMO ANAYA

Deputy Anaya said he was working unit 283B with Deputy Latosha Walker on the day of the incident, when they heard radio traffic regarding a deputy involved shooting, "998." They drove to the location and arrived in less than two minutes. Deputy Anaya met with Deputies Cuevas and Calderon on the west side of the house. They were detaining Suspect Morales Blas, who was lying face down in the driveway. Deputy Cuevas put together an arrest team, and instructed Deputy Anaya to cover the areas in the property beyond the suspect. Deputy Anaya, along with the other arrest team members, made their approach and arrested Suspect Morales Blas.

DEPUTY LATOSHA WALKER

Deputy Walker said she responded to the location with Deputy Anaya. When they arrived, Deputy Anaya joined the arrest team. Since there were sufficient deputies manning the team, Deputy Walker monitored the events from behind. The arrest team then approached Suspect Morales Blas and arrested him.

DEPUTY JAMES HUBBARD

Deputy Hubbard was working unit 287D when he responded to Tucker Street, regarding a deputy needing assistance. Deputy Hubbard arrived in approximately five minutes, and saw Suspect Morales Blas lying down on the ground. One of the deputies on scene formed a plan and instructed Deputy Hubbard to cover the backyard when they advanced toward the suspect. Deputy Hubbard walked down driveway with the arrest team, and kept his eye on the backyard. Once the suspect was taken into custody, Deputy Hubbard, along with multiple additional deputies, "cleared" the property.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said he was in his house, located at [redacted]. At approximately 1817 hours, he looked though his living room window and saw a male running eastbound on the south sidewalk. Ten to fifteen feet behind, was a deputy chasing him on foot. A patrol car then drove down the street and began paralleling the foot pursuit. The patrol car positioned itself between the male and the deputy running on the sidewalk. The deputy driving the patrol car seemed as if he had no intention of overtaking the suspect. The suspect then went into a vacant house down the street. Witness [redacted] stepped outside and began to approach. Suddenly, three gunshots rang out, so Witness [redacted] ran back to his house and ducked behind a truck.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said he was in his house located at [redacted] At approximately 1817 hours, he was sitting down in his living room when he heard somebody yelling outside. He looked through his living room window and saw a deputy running east on the south sidewalk. The deputy was giving some sort of commands. Moments later, Witness [redacted] heard the engine of a vehicle revving by. He saw nothing of significance after that.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said she was in her mother's house located at [redacted]. She was facing their living room window when she saw a male Hispanic running rapidly on the south sidewalk of the street. In his hands, in front of his body, the male appeared to be holding an unknown object. Approximately three seconds later, a patrol car passed by. Moments after that, Witness [redacted] heard an unknown amount of gunshots ring out. Deputy personnel began arriving, but Witness [redacted] saw nothing else of significance.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said she was in her house, located at [redacted]. She was sitting on her living room couch when she heard voices outside. She looked through her window and saw a male Hispanic "jogging" down the street on the south sidewalk. She then saw a deputy drive up to and travel alongside of the male. The deputy gave him some sort of instructions. The male appeared to acknowledge the deputy, but merely laughed as if it were not a serious matter. The male then ran to [redacted] E. Tucker Street. The deputy stopped his patrol car in the street, stepped out his vehicle, and drew his handgun. The deputy followed the suspect to the east side of the property, at which point, Witness [redacted] lost sight of the activity. Moments later, approximately four or five shots rang out. Other deputies then arrived and the suspect was apprehended ten or fifteen minutes later. Ms. [redacted] did not recall seeing a deputy in foot pursuit, nor did she see a second deputy during the incident.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said she lived at [redacted]. On the indicated date, she was in her living room when she heard approximately four or five "pops." She looked though her living room window and could see down the driveway of the location. Toward the back of the driveway, she saw something move. Deputies then began arriving and eventually they brought out a male Hispanic from the driveway.

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWED PESRONNEL

IAB investigators interviewed Sergeant's Natasha Butler, Eric Johnson, and Deputy Jaime Juarez, but they had no percipient information for the investigative summary. For further details, refer to their transcribed interviews submitted with this casebook.

SUSPECT STATEMENTS

SUSPECT MARIO ALBERTO MORALES BLAS

On May 13, 2019, IAB investigators attempted to interview Suspect Mario Morales Blas at Compton Station, but he declined to give a statement **[Exhibit C, IAB Suspect Interview]**. Prior to the IAB interview attempt, Suspect Morales Blas provided a statement to OSS Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] #[redacted] pursuant to the criminal investigation.

During the OSS interview, Suspect Morales Blas admitted he was a Compton Varrio – 70's gang member, who went by the moniker of "Negro." He said earlier in the day he ran from deputies for no reason and was "high as fuck." He ran into an abandoned property, and did not know why the deputies shot at him. He never pointed a gun at the deputies, nor was he in possession of a handgun. For further details, refer to the transcribed OSS interview of Suspect Morales Blas in this casebook.